MEMOIRS

OF

LITERATURE.

Monday, April 24, 1710.

To be continued Weekly.

T.

A DISSERTATION concerning Elijah's Ravens. (See Numb. IV. of these Memoirs.)

it self among all the Israelites, the Divine Justice afflicted that People with an extreme Famine. This Event was clearly foretold by the Prophet Elijah; who left Samaria, and the Kingdom of Israel, for fear the King shou'd put him to Death upon that account; and fled, as he was directed by the Spirit of God, towards the East, over against the River Jordan, not far from the Bridge. For, being a Native of Galaad, he thought he might be safe upon the Confines of the Jordan and the Kingdom of Israel; and that, if there was Occasion, he might go farther, into the Country of Galaad, or

It ought to be observed, in order to know the Place where Elijah conceal'd himself, that among many other Towns in the Country of Galaad, there were Ten very famous, that went by the Name of Decapolis. One of em, call'd Bethschau, Betsan, or Baisan, was very much celebrated, not only because it had a large Territory, on both Sides of the Jordan, but also on account of its Trade, Fine Cloth, and other Commodities. The Israelites were possess of it ever since their Coming into the Land of Canaan, till the Captivity of Babylon. After their Return from Captivity, they could not recover that Town: It remain'd in the Possession of the Gentiles; but was partly inhabited by the Israelites, like Capernaum and some other Towns.

Bethschan was called in Greek † Scythopolis, from the Scythians, who had formerly possess'd that City, and the Neighbouring Countrey beyond the Jordan, call'd Basan, Basanitis, and Batanea. This Great Town stood in the Tribe of Manasseb, half a League from the Jordan, and sisteen Leagues from the Lake of Genesareth. The other

Towns of Decapolis were fituated beyond the Jordan; as may be feen in most Geographical Tables. Bethschan, or Seythopolis, stood on the Confines of Galilee and Judea, when the whole Country of the Israelites was thus divided, or on the Frontiers of Samaria and Galilee, according to another Division of that Country. Which is confirm'd by Josephus, Brocardus, Breitenbach, and Bartholomew de Salignac, Ocular Witnesses; and by Peutinger, Adrichomius, Dr. Lightsoot, Cellarius, and many others. In that Part of the Country, stood a large Bridge over the Jordan, leading from Canaan into Galaad and Syria.

There was in the Country of Betschan a little Town, call'd Oreb, or Aerabi, according to S. Jerem and the Authors of Geographical Tables. It went long after by the Names of Zipporin, Sephorin, &c. which are better known in modern Histories. This Town is also frequently mention'd under the Names of Orbo, Sipporin, and Sippuria, in the Books of the Jews; whom the Learned take to be very well Skill'd in the Geography of their own Country. The famous Dr. Lightfoot has prov'd it by many Examples, and did not scruple to place the City of Orbo among those of Palestine. For tho' he does not own that the Prophet Elijah was fed in his Retirement by fome Inhabitants of Orbo, he does not deny that there was a Town of that Name. It appears therefore, that the Jews agree with S. Jerom concerning the Town of Aorabi, or Orbo: They plainly tell us, in the Ancient Book call'd Bired febit Rabba, that there was a Town, call'd Orbo, in the Country of Betschan. The Author of the Commentary entitled Mattanoth Kehunna, adds, that Jehoshaphat, King of Judea , reign'd over the City of Orbo. S. Ferom fays, that Aorabi was the last Town of Judea, towards the

The Sacred Writer gives us to understand, that the Brook Cherith was near the same Town; and Adrichomius, Geilkerkius, and several others, have observed the same in their Maps, since they place Arrabi and the Rock Orch near the Brook Cherith, or Carith. But they are mistaked in the Situation of the Brook Cherith, and the Neighbouraing Town of Arrabi or Oreh, which they represent lying near the Dead Sea; whereas they should have plac'd them nearer the Lake of Genefareth. There are innumerable Mistakes of this Nature in the Maps of Palestine, made

[†] See Lightfoot, Hor. Talmud. in Marcum, p. 565. &

^{*} Self. 33. Fol. 30. Col. 2.

by Men ignorant of the Jewish Antiquities. This Brook came down from the Western Mountains of Ephraim, ran towards the East, and fell into the Jordan, not far from the Bridge near Betschan. It was call'd Cherith, from the Neighbouring People, named Cret, Crethi, Kerethi, or Kerethim, a kind of Philistines, or Palestines, Skil'd in the Art of Throwing Darts; as we read in Bochart, Dr. Lightsoot, and several other Writers. From their Name, that Brook and the Neighbouring Sea of Galilee were call'd Crit, Keneret, Kinnereth, Genesareth; that is, the Country, the River, and the Sea of the People call'd

Crit.

The Prophet Elijah fled towards Oreb, or Aorabi, to avoid the Anger of King Ahab. He repaired to the Neighbourhood of that Town, and retired into a Cavern, or tome other place, near the Brook Cherith. This Brook was sufficient to quench his Thirst; but how could he get Bread and Meat in his Retirement? God told him that the ORE-BINS, or the Inhabitants of the Town of Orch or Orbo, shou'd feed him. Accordingly, some Citizens of that Town being inform'd that the Holy Prophet had conceal'd himself near the Brook Cherith, brought him Bread and Flesh every Morning and Evening 'Tis very probable, that some Inhabitants of that Town were no Idolaters, but worshipp'd the true God, and knew the Prophet. A Man fill'd with the Spirit of God, and able to foretell Things to come, was generally received with the greatest Demonstrations of Love and Respect, whereever he came. Thus Hisha coming to Damascu, was very kindly entertain'd by the Inhabitants, who made him noble Prefents. Elijih, who was a greater Prophet, did not doubt but that the Orebins, hearing of his Arrival, wou'd supply him with all Necessaries. Accordingly the Prophet departed from Samaria, and went towards the East, near the Brook Cherith, not far from the Bridge of Yerdan; where some Inhabitants of Oreb provided him with Diet every Morning and Evening. Thus the Holy Man was kindly used and fed, for a whole Year, by the charitable Orebins in his Retirement.

The Chaldrick and Arabick Interpreters, and the most celebrated Jews, acknowledge that the Prophet Elijab preferved his Life by the Care and Charity of the inhabitants of Oreb. The Author of the Commentary, entitl'd Mattanoth Kehunna, has these Words : The Citizens of Orbo fent him fime Meat: They are call d Orbois , that is , Citizens of Orbo , a Town belonging to Jehoshaphar. The Jews tell us the fame thing in " Moffecket Chulin, in thefe Words : Two or many of the faid Orebins fed Elijah. Which they confirm by a Pallage out of the Book of Judges, Chap. VII. where it is faid that the Ifraclites flem Oreb upon the Rock Oreb. They observe upon those Words, That the Orebins, who brought Meat to Elijah, were fo call'd from the Town where they lived. Rafchi, a very Fa-mous Doctor among the Jews, is of the fame Opinion in his Commentary. † The Sacred Writer, Says he, does not mean that all the Inhabitants fed Elijah; for all of 'em did not know that the Prophet was in that Country, much less where he had conceal'd himself; but some of 'em knew it, and took care of him. They are call'd Orbois from their Town , without any regard to the Names of their Families. Menaffeh Ben

Ifrael acknowledges the fame.

It frequently happens, that a thing generally unknown is however known to some private Persons. Neither A-bab, nor the other Enemies of the Prophet, knew where he had conceal'd himself; but some sew Friends were acquainted with it. Thus when the Spies of the Israelites went to Jericho, 'tis said they were hid, and that their Enemies could not find them; but the Woman who had conceal'd them, knew they were upon the Roof of her

House

There happen'd in Elijah's Time, a thing much like the case of that Prophet. Queen Jezebel, being very angry with him, and the other Prophets, who opposed Idolatry, caused many of 'em to be put to Death. 'Twas thought they had been all destroyed. During that Persecution, Obadiah, a great Man belonging to the Court of Abab, and a Servant of the true God, conceal'd a hundred Prophers in several Caverns, and took care to supply

them with Meat and Drink. Obadiah himself acquainted Elijah with it, when he left his Retirement. I Kings XVIII.

13. Thus, as the Lives of a hundred Prophets were preferved in Caves, and no body knew it but Obadiah and his Servants; so, at the very same time, the Divine Providence took care that some charitable Persons of the Town of Oreh shou'd supply Elijah with Bread and Meat in his Retirement.

Tis not therefore necessary to say, that Elijah was fed by Ravens. He was ferved by some Inhabitants of Oreb, not by Ravens; by Men, not by Birds. How cou'd the Holy Prophet receive his Meat from the Pounces of fuch unclean Animals, contrary to the Law, which he afferted with the greatest Zeal and Intrepidity? How cou'd he know that the unclean Ravens had not rested among Carcasses and Carrion before they brought him his Meat? How cou'd the Ravens find out the place where the Prophet lay conceal'd? Besides, that Holy Man was supplied with Bread and Flesh, every Morning and Evening, for a whole Year. How can fuch a long and careful Attendance be ascribed to Ravens? 'Tis strange that Interpreters shou'd not perceive that the Prophet was served by Men, and not by Birds. Let the Ravens then be for ever confined to their Nests. As for us, let us admire the Divine Goodness, in providing the holy Prophet with all Necessaries, in the greatest Danger, by the Ministry of his Fellow-Creatures.

The Interpreters have been generally satisfied with an obscure and ill-grounded Tradition. 'Tis true, some, both Jews and Christians, though they knew not that there was a Town call'd Oreb, have boldly declared, that Elijah had been fed not by Ravens, but by Merchants, as they explain the Hebrew word Orebim, in Ezekiel XXVII.29. They came nearer the Truth than all other Interpreters; being sensible, that the Prophet had been fed, by Men, not by Birds. This is the Opinion of Kimchi, Abarbanel, and several others, who entirely explode the common Opi-

nion.

II.

ESSAI sur l'Usage de la Raillerie & de L'Enjoument dans les Conversations qui roulent sur le Matieres les plus importantes. Traduit de l'Anglois. A la Haye, Chez Henry Scheurleer, 1710. 120, pp. 176.

HE Effay on Wit and Humour, has been esteem'd a Master-piece in its kind. Purity of Diction, Deli-cacy of Sentiments, and a manly Vein of Reasoning, run through the whole : no wonder then, an Ingenious Pen has attempted to represent the Beauties of the Original in a Foreign Dress. The Performance indeed was difficult, but the greater is the Reputation of his Success. Perhaps he has made the Author more Intelligible; for besides the Notes, which embellish and explain the Text, he has added a Preface, to lead the Reader into a distinct View of the whole Work. " 'Tis a general Opinion, Jays be, in Holland and France, that Great-Britain abounds with Libertines, who speak and write with great Freedom, against Opinions the most universally Establish'd. "On this Account they pass for real Scepticks, and far from being Affronted, they glory in the Character. As they Ipare no Party or Profession, they find them-" selves attack'd from ev'ry Quarter, the Pulpit, and the " Press, in all Controversies that come upon the Stage. And indeed, these are the Men chiefly pointed at in this Effay. But our Author shews by the way, that thefe Gentlemen are not fuch Scepticks as they are fuppos'd to be : And when they profess an absolue Scepticism, 'tis only an Artifice to make Men patient to hear those venerable Doctrines call'd in question, which " they think inconsistent with the real Interests of Man-

"To be plain, no great Success can be expected from the Method usually taken to undeceive them. How many declaim in general against the Liberty they take to doubt of particular Doctrines? Instead of answer-

^{*} C. 1. Fol. 5. Col. 1. † Raschi, in Chulin, 1. c.

ing their Objections calmly, they censure them for publishing their Scruples. To what Purpose is all this, but only to confirm them in their Scepticism, and convince them that their Adversaries see no farther than they do? That, though they pretend to believe, 'tis the better to make their Court, and for fear of disobliging the Multitude, who generally are most Zealous for Opinions they least understand? They might always thus reply; Well! Gentlemen, Why all this Stir and Transport? Is it in Compassion to the Impersection of our Sense? Have you clearer or more enlarged Prospects? Why then so much Reserve? Let us share in the Advantages of your Penetration. 'Tis true, we demur upon fome Articles, which to you appear founded upon the most irresistible Evidence. But then difplay you Reasons in their Meridian Light; and spare thoie Flashes of Intemperature, which so profusely fall on those who grope under the Misfortune of being in the Dark. Our Author was very fensible of the Reasonableness

"Our Author was very sensible of the Reasonableness of such an Expostulation. Far from bullying these pretended Scepticks with Rant and Raving, he employs the I. Part of his Essay in justifying the Freedom they take to examine all manner of Opinions, to question the most generally received Maxims, and even to bring them to the Test of Ridicule. By this means he gains upon their Considence, and admission circum pracordia ludit. After having suffer'd em to laugh at every thing, he rallies them in his turn, but with so much Delicacy and Discretion, they find themselves disarm'd of all Reply.

"In the II. Part, he attacks their favourite Principles, concerning Virtue and Society. This feems to be the main Delign of this Work. These New Scepticks, after the Example of Hobbes, allow of no Generous Passion, no Social Affection. Our Author therefore shews that these Sentiments are implanted in the Heart of Man; that Hobbes himself could not divest his Soul of these Principles; and that his Followers have irresistibly submitted to the Power of the Social Charm.

"He carries on the Attack, and confutes their Principles more directly in the III. Part. After having proved their Idea of the State of Nature to be altogether Chimerical, he determines what that State is, and settles it upon the Surest Foundations. He lays down this Principle; That if any thing be natural in any Creature, or any Kind, 'tis that which is Preservative of the Kind it self, and conducing to its Welfare and Support. From hence he overthrows the Doctrine of Epicurus, Hobbes, and all their Followers, sets off the native Charms of Virtue, and shows she is not to be won by Mean, Self-interested Views.

"In the last Part, he makes new Efforts to convince these Gentlemen of the Beauty of Virtue, and obliges them to renounce their Claim to common Sense; or else to acknowledge, that nothing can be more attracting, than a Conduct of Life regulated by Wisdom and true Justice.

It will not be improper, by way of Specimen, to give the Translator's Note upon the following Passage in the Essay on Wit and Humour, Pag. 81. "Other Authors there have been of a yet inferior Kind; a fort of Distributers and perty Retailers of Wit, who have run Changes and Divisions, without end, upon this Article of Self-love. You have the same Thought spun out a " hundred Ways, and drawn into Motto's and Devices, to " fet forth this Riddle ; That all as difinterestedly or gene-" roufly as you please, Self still is at the Bottom, nothing else. The Author, Says be, points here at the Duke of la Rochefoucault. The Moral Reflections afcribed to him, contain nothing elfe but this Principle, That Self Love is the Foundation of all our Actions. La Bruyere takes notice of this Work in very respectful Terms ; and at the same time makes this Observation: 'Tis the Production, Says he, of a Gemius improv d by Conversation in the World, whose Delicary of Wit was equal to his Penetration. The Author having observed that Self-Love is in Man the Cause of all his Weaknesses, attacks it without respite, upon all Encounters; and this single Thought, diversified a thousand Ways, by a happy choice of Words and Turns of Expression, Still appears with the graceful Air of Noveley Descourse upon Theophrastus. The Translator observes farther, that this Principle has been confuted by the Journalists of Treveux. " The System of Self-Love,

" Say they, owes its Reputation to the Duke of la Rochefon-" cault, Author of the Miral Reflections. He has had the " fame Fare with the Inventers of Systems in Natural " Philosophy, who run into Mistakes from an Affectation of reducing ev'ry thing to one fingle Principle. Mankind, 'tis true, is miserably corrupted : Interest, Self-Love, are the usual Motives of their Actions; this can't be well disputed. But must we therefore grant, that all the Seeds of Virtue are quite defac'd by a ge-" neral Corruption ; and that without Grace we can on-" ly exchange our Vices? Could Interest produce the " Integrity of Regulus, in keeping his Word inviolable? " Did Self-Love prompt him to return and expose him-" felf to the most exquisite Torments? The Justice of Lyeurgus, who furrendred a Crown to a Nephew, when no body else knew it was his Right by Birth; the Generofity of those Slaves, who during the Triumvirat, devoted their Lives for the Safety of their Masters; Could these Passions spring from the Corruption of Nature? They were acted by Vanity, perhaps some will fay. Can any thing be more rash and ridiculous, than to build a System of Morals upon such an Airy Foundation? What Vanity could influence Slaves, fo very obscure, that even their Names were unknown " to those who took away their Lives?

The Marquis of St. Aulaire has also confuted the same Hypothesis, in his Answer to an Ode of Mr. de la Motte, inserted in the Journal of Trevenx.

Several other Passages might be produc'd out of French Authors, to shew that the Duke of la Rochefoncault's System is look'd upon in France, as peculiar to that Ingenious Writer; and therefore it cannot with any Justice be ascrib'd to the whole Nation.

III.

AN ACCOUNT of the Life and Writings of the late M. Martin Hankius.

THIS Author made a Considerable Figure in the Commonwealth of Learning; and therefore, tho' he dy'd a Year ago, the Reader will not be displeas'd to find here the following Account.

M. MARTIN HANKIUS, Rector and Professor of Elizabeth-College at Breslaw, died in that City last Year, on the 24th of April. He was born February 15, 1633. in a Town Three German Miles distant from Breflaw. He went thro' his School-Learning in that City; from whence he was fent to the University of Jenn, where he made a Confiderable Progress in Philosophy and Divinity. He read Private Lectures, and maintain'd Publick Disputations upon several Subjects; which procur'd him fuch a Reputation, that Erneflus Pius, Duke of Saxe-Gotha, made him Proteffor of Natural Philosophy, Morals, Politicks, and History. He discharg'd the Duties of his Professorship with so much Glory, that the City of Breslaw sent for him in the Year 1661, to make him Professor of Practical Philosophy, History, and Eloquence. In 1670. he was made Library-Keeper, and in 1688. Rector of Elizabeth-College.

In 1669, he publish'd at Leipsick his First Volume de Romanarum rerum Scriptoribus, in 4to.

About the Year 1673, he printed his Orationes Parentales, Nuptiales, & Dramatica, and his Poems, in Offavo.

In 1674, he published his Second Volume de Romanarum rerum Scriptoribns, at Leipsick, in 4to.

In 1677, he put out his Book de Byzantinarum rerum Scriptoribus, at Leipsick, in 400; wherein he gives an exact Account of the Lives and Writings of Fifty Authors, who have writ the Civil and Ecclesiastical History of Constantinople, and other Places.

His Writings made his Name so samous, that the late Emperor sent for him, to put Part of his Library into a good Order; and His Imperial Majesty express'd his great Esteem for him by a Noble Present. Afterwards M. Hankius undertook to write the History of Breslaw and

Silefia, and publish'd the following Books.

In the Year 1701, Urat flaviences Eruditionis Propagatores, in Fol. with Annotations; wherein he gives, in several Chronological Tables, a List of all the Rectors, Professors, and Teachers of the Schools of Breslaw, from the Year 1525, to 1700.

In 1702, Antiquitates de Silesiorum Nominibus, in 4to. In the same Year, Antiquitates de Silesiorum Majoribus, ab

Orbe condito ad Annum Christi 550, 4to.

· In 1705, Exercitationes de Silessorum rebus, ab Anno Chrifi 550, ad 1170, 4to. In 1707, Liber Singularis de Silestis indigenis eruditis, from the Year 1165, to 1550. And another Book, de Silestis alienigenis eruditis, from the Year 1170, to 1550.

He wou'd have publish'd many other Pieces relating to the same Subject, if he had lived longer. His Death is the more to be lamented, because Silesia will hardly afford any Man sufficiently qualify'd to go on with the same Work.

LEIPSICK.

M. Schutzen, who put out some Years ago a Dictionary, containing all the Proper Names mention'd in the Bible, disposed in an Alphabetical Order, has newly publish'd another with this Title:

Apparatus Curiosus & Practicus, continens raras Annotationes Theologicas, Observationes Philologicas, Historicas & Philosophicas. Arguta insuper Apophthegmata, Selecta Hieroglyphica, ingeniosa Symbola, Emblemata, &c. In 410. pagg.

1675.

This Dictionary consists of many Latin Words dispos'd in an Alphabetical Order; to each of which the Author has added some Reflexions, or Historical Facts, taken from the Books he has read. Under the Word Abgarus, he has inserted the Letter which that Prince writ to JESUS CHRIST, according to some Authors; and the Answer of JESUS CHRIST to that Prince. He enquires whether that Piece be Genuine or Spurious: He quotes several Authors who have mention'd it, and gives an Account of their Opinions. This is a very large Volume; and yet it contains but Part of the Author's Collections. If it meets with a good Reception, it will be follow'd by some Volumes of a larger Size.

A New Edition of Sulpicius Severus has been printed

here in 8vo. with some Additions.

Sulpicii Severi, que extant, Opera omnia, in duos Tomos distributa; quorum prior continct antehac edita, cum Notis Joannis Vorstii; alter Epistolas antea cum reliquis Operibus nondum editas, ex Recensione & cum Notis Joannis Clerici.

FRANCFORT.

A Bookseller of this City has publish'd the History of Germany, under the Reign of Otho I. Sirnamed the Great, Otho II and Otho III. written by John de Vorburg.

Historia rerum Germanicarum sub tribus Imperatoribus Romano-Germanicis, Ottone I. Magno, Ottone II. & Ottone III. gestarum, in qua multa Germanorum praclara facta ab interitu vindicantur & distincte explicantur, ex monumentis antiquis & manuscriptis side dignis accurate concinnata, à Joh. Philippo à Vorburg, incomparabili Historia Germanica Scriptore, Praposito Monasterii Grandis-vallis, & Consiliario Moguntino & Herbipolensi, & Qua hactenus quodam fato latuit, & nondum distracta suit, nunc verò ex multorum desideriis ob singularem ejus utilitatem in cognoscenda historia patria, bono publico, primim in lucem è tenebris protracta à Friderico Knochio Bibliop. Francos. In Folio, pagg. 170.

This Historian makes an Apology for Hatto, Archbishop of Mentz, who has been represented by several Writers as a very wicked Man. They say that this Prelate having caused many poor People, who were troublesome to him, to be burnt alive in a Barn, died after a very Tragical Manner. Whilst those poor Wretches made a horrid Noise in the midst of Flames, the Archbishop fell a Laughing, saying, They were so many Rats he got himself rid of. Those very Animals destroyed him, accord-

ing to those Authors. He was affaulted by a vast multitude of Rats, which pursued him so obstinately, that nothing cou'd deliver him from their Fury. The Rhine cou'd not protect him. They shew to this day a Tower in the middle of that River, between Bingen and Rudesheim, whither 'tis said the Rats swam and devoured the cruel Hatto Vorburg observes that the ancient Historians, who mention the Death of that Archbishop, say nothing of such an extraordinary Event; and that their Silence is a sufficient Proof of the Falsity of this Story.

LTONS.

HE Poetical Dictionary, Dictionarium Poeticum, of Father Vaniere, well known by his fine Latin Poems, will come out in a short time. The Name of the Author is a sufficient Proof of the Perfection of that Work. He is fo good a Poet, that he can't be mistaken in the Choice of the most Poetical Expressions. He has carefully read over again the best Ancient and Modern Poets; for he thought it proper to infert whatever is valuable in the Moderns, to make his Dictionary more compleat. He has omitted nothing relating to Mithology and Geography, that is necessary to understand and imitate the Ancient Poets. He has not forgot the Terms of Art; and because he has added to each Latin Word the French that answers it, this Work will be as good as a Latin and French Dictionary. 'Tis a Book in 4to. fairly printed, and very Correct; for the Author has revised all the Proofs.

AMSTERDAM.

THE Memoirs and Secret Negotiations of the Court of France, concerning the Peace of Munster, are lately come out.

Mémoires & Negotiations secretes de la Cour de France touchant la Paix de Munster; contenant les Lettres, Réponses, Mémoires & Avis secrets envoyez de la Part du Roy, de son Eminence le Cardinal Mazarin, & de M. le Comte de Brienne, Secretaire d'Etat, aux Plenipotentiaires de France à Munster, afin de leur servir d'instruction pour la Paix Génerale; aves les Dépêches & les Réponses des dits Plenipotentiaires. 1710. In Folio, and in 4 Volumes in 8vo.

LETDEN.

M. Noedt has publish'd a Second Edition of a Curious Book, entitled,

Julius Paulus, sive de Partus Expositione & Nece apud Veteres, Liber singularis. Editio Secunda, priore auctior. 1710.

In 4to. pagg. 98.

This Book contains the History of the horrid Custom of exposing or killing Children newly born, which lasted till the Empire of Valentinian, Valens and Gratian. A Passage of the Civilian Julius Paulus, l. 4. D. de agnoscendis & alendis liberis, moved the Author to write upon such a Subject. This Work is of great use to understand several Passages in the Civil Law and many ancient Authors.

LONDON: Printed by J. Roberts: And Sold by A. Baldwin, near the Oxford-Arms in Warwick-Lane. (Price 2 d.)